

Vulnerability of Butterflies

1/ Butterfly as a Pollinator



Butterflies are one of the flagship pollinators that play an important role in ecosystem restoration by pollinating plants.

means increase in butterfly diversity increases the plant diversity.

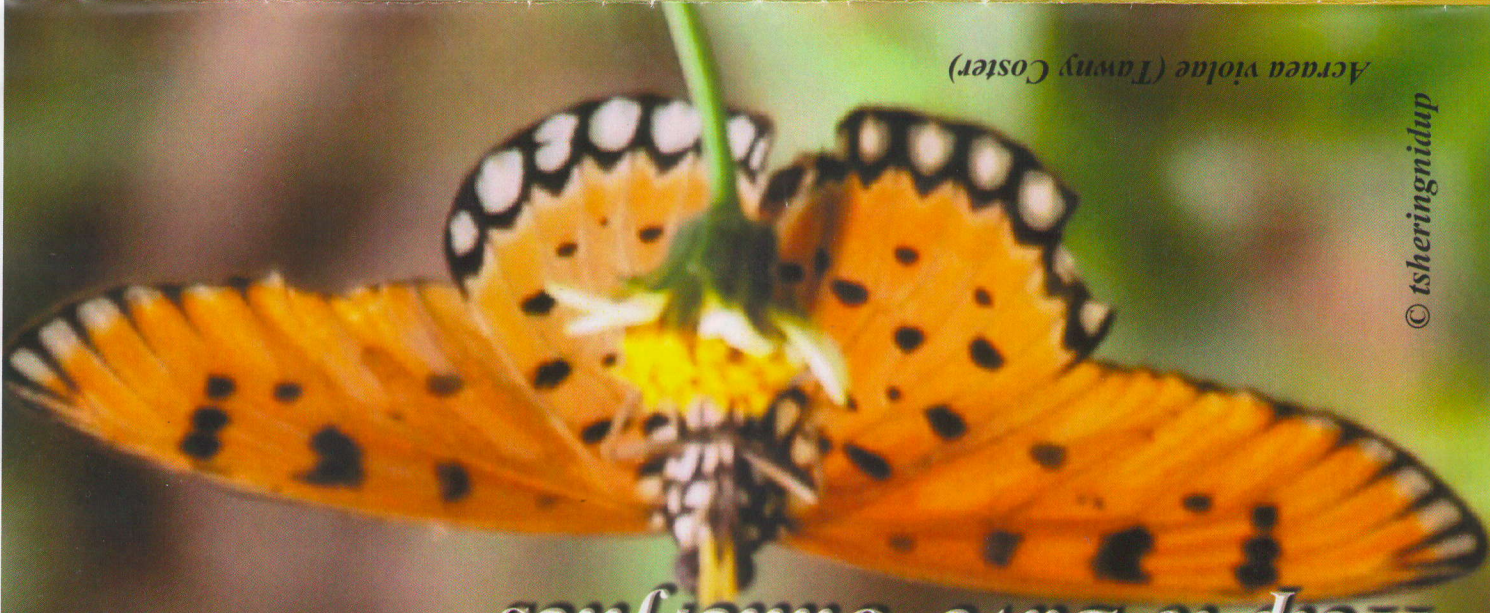
2/ Butterfly as a source of Food



Butterflies are one of the main sources of food and play an important role in the food web by being a food source for predators such as lizards and birds. The management of butterflies will help ensure the survival of a wide range of predators.

World butterfly populations are declining due to habitat degradation and incorrect management.

Help to Save butterflies



Acraea violae (Tawny Coster)

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3/ Butterfly as an Ecological Indicator

Butterflies are good indicators of anthropogenic (human) disturbance, habitat quality and climate change.

Like birds, butterflies also migrate. Generally, migration occurs for want of food, mate and shelter. Nature of vegetation and climatic factors like temperature, wind, moisture and humidity play an important role in their distribution, feeding and reproductive behaviour. In addition, a butterfly population also regulates their natural enemies.

So, due to its significant role in the ecosystem, some of the country has started restoring the habitat for rare and endangered species.

Due to lack of scientific knowledge on this invertebrate, majority of the people view butterflies as having no use, and this invertebrate remains less understood for its role in the ecosystem.



The Rufford Foundation
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Golden birdwing (*Triodes aeacus aeacus*)

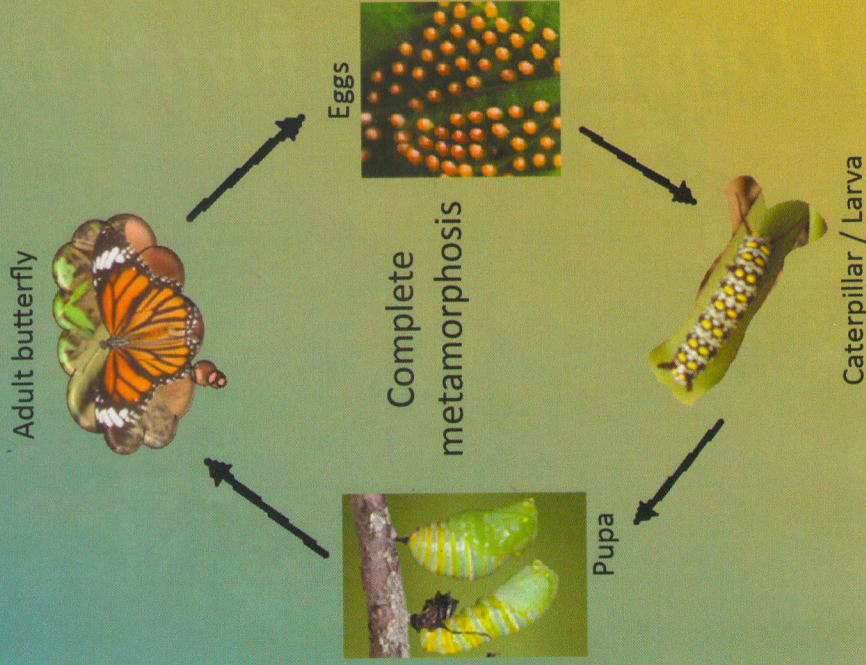
Brief description about butterflies

Butterflies and moths make up a large group of insects known, and belong to Insecta and order Lepidoptera. Among all the insects, butterflies are the world's most majestic creatures with vibrant colour, exquisitely patterned and always been most fascinating to mankind from the time immemorial. Butterflies are the best known insect, because of their spectacular beauty and ease, as they flutter through the air. Approximately 18,000 species of butterflies are estimated to be found in the world. Bhutan being the smallest country also predicted to have 800 to 1000 species of butterfly. Till to date in Bhutan, 180 species of butterfly have been recorded. Butterflies can be found in the entire world except for the arid regions and the most arid desert.

Save butterflies

Life cycle of Butterfly

Butterflies tend to have short lives. Adult butterfly is the final stage of the life cycle consisting of an egg, larva, pupa and adult. In the adult stage, a butterfly has four main tasks: locating a mate and mating, laying eggs on suitable food plants, feeding and, of course, surviving long enough to achieve the first three tasks.



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Orange oakleaf (*Kallima inachus inachus*)

Every one has right to live so....

Do not disturb the life cycle of butterfly.
Do not cut away the food plants of butterfly.
Do not kill the adult butterfly.

"When talking about threatened species, people tend to think of larger, more charismatic creatures such as pandas or tigers, but we mustn't forget that the small species on our planet are just as important, and are also in need of conservation action. Butterflies, for instance, play a hugely pivotal role as pollinators in the ecosystems in which they live," says Jane Smart, Director, IUCN Biodiversity.

Butterflies are not harmful
Rather they are very helpful...



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